

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE, OFFICE OF
EXTENSION WORK, NORTH AND WEST,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB WORK AND EXTENSION WORK WITH FARM WOMEN.

THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER HOME CANNING CLUB.

By O. H. BENSON, *In Charge of Boys' and Girls' Club Work in the Northern and Western States.*

The principal objects of the mother-daughter home canning club work are (1) to bring about a closer fellowship between mother and daughter in the social and economic activities in the home, and (2) to preserve food by canning, and thus save waste, reduce living expenses,



FIG. 1.—School of instruction for training of mothers and daughters in methods of home canning.

and improve the family diet. The beneficial effects of such work are by no means confined to the home, but in many cases are felt in the social life and activities of the community at large.

The main purpose of this circular is to suggest ways in which mother-daughter clubs may be efficiently organized and conducted.

THE PLAN.

The plan for a mother-daughter home canning club should provide for work covering four years, but the work of each year should include canning as the primary activity of the club members. During the first year canning should occupy the larger portion of attention and

include the attendance at demonstrations of canning, the study of canning literature with home work in canning fruits and vegetables at first, followed later by the canning of soups and meats. The regular club meetings should be held, as well as a club fair and a club achievement day, suggestive programs for which are given later in this circular. The work of the second year should continue the work of the first year, with additional attention given to cooking lessons. The work of the third year should continue that of the two preceding years, with additional lessons on canning, cooking, and sewing. The work of the four years should be planned to cover four definite home-interest subjects, such as home canning, cooking, sewing, and care and arrangement of the kitchen.

It frequently happens that a perishable product becomes available unexpectedly or in larger quantities than was expected. The mother-daughter home canning club can handle this situation by cooperative effort whereby two or more teams meet at a convenient place, and through the united effort economically handle the product which could not be properly cared for by one team working alone. Provisions for such cooperative canning should be included in the outline of work for each year.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.

Membership in a mother-daughter home canning club should be made by teams, each team consisting of a senior and a junior member, the senior members to be women 18 years of age or over and junior members girls from 10 to 18 years of age. It is expected that the members of the club will attend its regular meetings, and failure to attend meetings without a reasonable excuse is usually regarded as a sufficient cause for forfeiting membership in the club. As the primary object of the club is home canning of fruits and vegetables the members are expected to attend canning demonstrations (fig. 1) and to read the canning instructions furnished them by the State leader of club work. In order to secure successful results in canning and also to have a uniform product when it is desired to sell canned goods, members should agree to follow the instructions furnished for canning. Since the usual basis of award and programs at club fairs and festivals (see p. 5) require that the exhibit be accompanied by a record of the work done and a story of the way in which members did the work, it is very desirable that members keep accurate records throughout the season. Moreover, if members keep a simple system of cost accounting as well as canning records they will probably have a better appreciation of the business management of the home.

ORGANIZATION.

When interest is manifested in the organization of a mother-daughter home canning club the State leaders in boys' and girls' club work and extension workers in home economics should be consulted and their cooperation secured. They should be asked to furnish specific outlines for local club work, suggestive programs for club meetings, and follow-up instructions.

The constitutions used in different States vary somewhat, but the following form, adapted from one used by Otis E. Hall, State club leader of Kansas, in the work in that State contains the principal features needed by the mother-daughter home canning club:

SUGGESTIVE CONSTITUTION FOR A MOTHER-DAUGHTER HOME CANNING CLUB.

ARTICLE I (NAME).

The name of this organization shall be the _____ Mother-Daughter Home Canning Club, of _____ County, _____.

ARTICLE II (PURPOSE).

The purpose of this organization shall be to teach and encourage the home canning of those food products which are generally plentiful in summer but scarce in winter, and to bring about a closer friendship and cooperative spirit in rural and village communities.

ARTICLE III.

SEC. 1. Membership. Membership in this club shall be made by teams. Each team shall consist of a senior and a junior member. Senior membership shall consist of women over 18 years of age and junior membership shall consist of girls from 10 to 18 years of age.

SEC. 2. New membership. After a club is properly organized, additional members shall be admitted only by a two-thirds vote of the club.

SEC. 3. Forfeit of membership. A failure to attend three successive meetings without a reasonable excuse shall be sufficient cause for the forfeiting of membership in the club. Also a failure to comply with the rules and by-laws of the club after due notice in writing from the secretary shall be cause for the forfeiting of membership.

ARTICLE IV (ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS).

(No club shall be organized with less than five teams.)

SEC. 1. The officers shall consist of a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The duties of these officers shall be those that usually devolve upon such officers in other organizations of like character. The president, for example, shall be the executive head of the club and shall appoint all committees and shall be ex officio member of all committees appointed. The committees shall consist of (1) a program committee, (2) a social committee, (3) a new membership committee, (4) a buying and selling committee, and (5) a community welfare committee.

SEC. 2. The election of officers. The officers of this club shall be elected annually, and only active members shall be eligible to hold office, and only those members in good standing shall be eligible to vote for officers or on other business propositions. All voting for officers shall be by ballot unless otherwise ordered by the club. Before any candidate can be declared elected she must receive a majority of all votes cast.

SEC. 3. Two of the four officers shall consist of junior members and two of senior members; in so far as possible, one-half of the personnel of all committees shall be of the junior members.

SEC. 4. The right to vote shall be given to all junior as well as senior members.

The membership of committees shall also be divided as equally as possible between the junior and senior members.

ARTICLE V (MEETINGS).

SEC. 1. There shall be, so far as practicable, a regular meeting of the whole club every two weeks or each month, and special meetings shall be held subject to the call of the president. The program of the regular meetings shall proceed as follows: First, regular order of business; second, a subject-matter program or an actual canning demonstration by some one from the college or by one or more teams from the club, or a practical and helpful discussion on some definite phase of the canning problem; and third, social session or adjournment.

Special meetings shall be subject to the call of the president, and when a two-thirds majority of the membership of the club is present business may be transacted the same as at any regular meeting.

SEC. 2. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order by the president or vice president.
2. Reading of minutes of last meeting by the secretary.
3. Reports from standing or special committees.
4. Unfinished business.
5. New business.
6. Social program.

ARTICLE VI (DUTIES OF CLUB MEMBERS).

Every member is to carry out the rules of the club, which rules shall be prepared or approved by the club leader. Each member shall also make a final exhibit for the club if the making of such exhibit is voted for by a majority of the members of the club.

CLUB MEETINGS.

In as far as possible club meetings should be conducted at times most convenient for the members to attend. In most communities two meetings per month are usually conducted afternoons.

Detailed suggestions for local club programs may be secured from the State club leader. The programs used in many States include many of the suggestions which follow.

SUGGESTIVE PROGRAMS FOR CLUB MEETINGS.

The program may profitably be divided into three sections: (1) A business program, (2) subject-matter program, and (3) a social program.

FIRST MEETING.

- (1) A business meeting lasting not more than 20 minutes. This may be opened by a roll-call to be answered by a report from each member present of the number of jars of foodstuffs canned

- (2) Subject-matter program.

Report of progress by members in the work.

Discussions by members on—

Methods in canning.

How to make an inexpensive homemade canner.

Best fruits and vegetables for the diet.

Demonstrations by mother-daughter team on how to can strawberries.



FIG. 2.—A Mother-Daughter Canning Demonstration Team—as they appear in action before the friends and neighbors of the community.

- (3) Social program.

This should be furnished by the social committee and should provide for a free and informal discussion on community interests, school problems, current events, and perhaps for the playing of a few games in which both mothers and daughters may participate with interest. This program should offer some versatility in order to keep up interest on the part of both mothers and daughters.

SECOND MEETING.

- (1) Business meeting lasting not more than 20 minutes. This may be opened by a roll-call to be answered by each member quoting a recipe from instructions furnished.

- (2) Subject-matter program.

Demonstrate how to can hard fruits (apples), by mother-daughter team. (Fig. 2.)

Demonstrate how to make a homemade canner, by mother-daughter team.

Demonstrate how to can dandelion greens, by mother-daughter team.

Demonstrate how to prepare and serve vegetable greens, by mother-daughter team.

- (3) Social program.

Suggestions given for the first program may be followed.

It is usually desirable to have selections of music. A few stories and nursery rhymes to demonstrate the telling of stories to little children will be valuable as a part of the social program and will be desirable in the training of the mothers and daughters for their home responsibilities.

OTHER MEETINGS.

In a similar way, programs may be outlined for the entire calendar year, covering monthly, semimonthly, or weekly meetings. Play festivals, socials, fairs, harvest-home and fall festivals, educational excursions to gardens, orchards, and kitchens in the neighborhood should be planned. The boys and fathers should be invited to a number of meetings during the year and given a chance to become interested in the entire program of the mother-daughter club. The club may some time during the year give a banquet to the husbands, brothers, and male friends.

BASIS OF AWARD.

The following basis of award is frequently used as a guide by judges and referees in awarding prizes, honors, and determining achievement credit for club work done:

	Per cent.
1. Quantity or variety of canned products.....	20
2. Quality of canned products.....	20
3. Appearance of canned products.....	20
4. Profit on investment.....	20
5. Records or stories of home canning work.....	20
 Total score.....	 100

PRIZES AND MEDALS.

It is expected that the entire club will work to win honor and reputation for the community and that the mother-daughter team will constitute the unit upon which the standards of achievement are to be measured. At the club festivals, county, district, and State fairs it is suggested that prizes be given for the exhibits of the mother-daughter team or the entire club. If a prize is given for an exhibit of canned goods, this prize should be won by the mother and daughter team and owned jointly by the mother and daughter.

CLUB FAIR AND FESTIVAL.

The interest in the club and knowledge of its work will be greatly increased by holding a fair and festival in the early part of the season and another at the close of the season. A suggestive program given below will give an idea of the arrangement of subjects which may be taken up at these two public meetings.

JULY FAIR AND FESTIVAL.

- (1) Parade; mother-daughter club in uniforms.
- (2) Club demonstration of home canning methods.
- (3) Home-canned luncheon or picnic dinner.
- (4) Club play contests:
 - (a) Apple-paring contest.
 - (b) Variety-naming contest.
 - (c) Needle-threading contest.
 - (d) Vegetable and fruit judging contests.
 - (e) Can labeling, recipe giving, and other games and contests may be used.
- (5) Awarding of prizes and honors.
- (6) Report by officers.

OCTOBER FAIR AND FESTIVAL.

- (1) Music, Mrs. Darwin and daughter.
- (2) Mother-daughter club as a community builder, Rev. J. Brown.
- (3) Report of club president on achievement of the club, Mrs. Anna Brown.
- (4) Report of team work:
 - Mrs. Smith and daughter.
 - Mrs. Franklin and daughter.
 - Mrs. Fairbanks and daughter.
- (5) Report of committee on awards.
- (6) Awarding achievement medals by county demonstrator, county or State club leader.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ONE MOTHER-DAUGHTER CLUB.

The Glenwood Mother-Daughter Club of Leavenworth County, Kans., was the first one organized in the United States, and in the two years of its existence has made a remarkable record of achievement, as the following statement based on information furnished by the Kansas State leader in charge of boys' and girls' club work indicates:

There were 29 mother-daughter teams, or 58 members, in the club in 1916. The youngest daughter in the club was 9 years of age, the oldest 17. This club held its meetings every two weeks in the local rural church. The membership of the club represents a typical farming community, 10 miles square. During the canning season this club of 58 members achieved remarkable success in home canning and in other activities for community development. Here are a few items of interest about this work. The entire club put up 9,838 quarts of food products, consisting of 4,520 quarts of fruit, 4,117½ quarts of vegetables, 84½ quarts of soup; 183½ quarts of meat; 932½ quarts of jellies, jams, and preserves. The average cost per quart of all food products canned by this club was 14 cents; the average profit per quart of all canned food products was 24 cents. Eleven of the mother-daughter teams of this club canned over 100 varieties of food products, two mother-daughter teams canning over 200 varieties, representing all kinds of fruits, vegetables, soups, and meats (pork, beef, poultry, both wild and domestic fowl, squirrel, 'possum, coon, rabbit, fish, oysters, etc.). The total value of food products canned by this club was \$3,840.46. The club made a net profit of \$2,462.24, and canned 1,807 quarts of food products more than the same club canned in 1915, its first year of work.

